

**SENATE—Monday, June 21, 1999**

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable PAT ROBERTS, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, You are the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. We praise You for Your reliability. Our lives change: We have good days and bad days; we experience up times and down times. Often we are caught in the muddle of our moods; sometimes life goes bump when things don't turn out as we expected. We become disappointed with people. But You are our mighty God who has entrusted us with work to do for Your glory. Each time we return to You to find strength to survive and thrive, You are there waiting for us. We begin this new work-week where everything should begin and never end: in complete trust in You, Your availability, and our accountability to You.

Bless the Senators and all of us who work with them. May this be a week of progress and productivity. We place our reliance squarely on Your reliability. Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

**APPOINTMENT OF THE ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, June 21, 1999.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PAT ROBERTS, a Senator from the State of Kansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. ROBERTS thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

**RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader, the Senator from Ohio, is recognized.

**SCHEDULE**

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of

morning business until 1 p.m. Following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of S. 1133, the agriculture appropriations bill. Amendments are expected to that legislation, and it is hoped that Members will coordinate with the managers of the bill to offer their amendments. In addition, the Senate may resume consideration of the State Department authorization bill during today's session. Any votes ordered with respect to either of these bills will occur at 5:30 this evening. It is the intention of the leader to complete action on the State Department authorization bill and to make significant progress on the agriculture appropriations bill.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

**RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

**MORNING BUSINESS**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 1 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for 10 minutes.

Under the previous order, the Senator from Ohio is recognized to speak for up to 30 minutes.

The Senator is recognized.

Mr. VOINOVICH. I thank the Chair.

**THE SITUATION IN KOSOVO**

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, 11 days ago, the American people were relieved to hear that the air war against Yugoslavia was ending. Yesterday, the air war was officially declared over.

In the end, I believe it was prayer and the Holy Spirit that brought enlightenment to our leaders that the death and destruction in Kosovo and Serbia must stop. Enough was enough.

I rise today to commend our men and women in uniform for their honorable, valiant and courageous service over the last several months in the campaign to stop ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

Conventional military wisdom has long held that a military victory could not be achieved without the deployment of troops on the ground. Indeed, television pundits, newspaper editors and even some of my colleagues, advocated the introduction of ground troops to Kosovo based on this widely-held belief.

However, the incredible work of our pilots, logistics and support staff during the bombing has proven the conventional wisdom wrong—it is possible to achieve limited military objectives on the ground using air power alone given the quality of the American soldier using our technical superiority.

When I traveled to Southeast Europe last month to learn more about the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's campaign, I was struck by the commitment and professionalism of our forces throughout the region. Faced with incredibly long working hours, the stress of a combat environment, isolation from family and loved ones and difficult living conditions, each soldier I spoke with strove to do their best in service to their grateful nation. We can ask no more.

The American people, and Congress, should especially be proud of these fine men and women in uniform.

We should also thank God that we have such soldiers as Chief Warrant Officer David Gibbs, from Massillon, Ohio, and Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Reichert of Wisconsin—two brave Apache helicopter pilots who gave their lives in service to their nation in the Kosovo conflict.

A few weeks ago, my wife Janet and I went to Arlington Cemetery to pay our respects to the David Gibbs' family. I shared our appreciation for the sacrifice that he made and that they will continue to make. I get upset when I hear our leaders say we did not have any combat casualties—a euphemism to mean no soldier died in "actual" combat.

Tell that to David Gibbs' widow, Jean Gibbs. Or to their three children—Allison, Megan, or David. Or his mother, Dorothy. Their lives will never be the same.

Since 1991, when I was Governor of Ohio, there have been 32 men and women from Ohio who have died serving their nation, not counting the 19 that died in the Persian Gulf War.

Tell the families of those who did not die in combat that their loss is any less significant because their loved one didn't die in battle.

We must thank God that we have brave men and women who choose to serve our country, and we must never forget those soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for this nation and the ongoing sacrifice of the families.

Mr. President, as you know, I opposed the bombing from Day One. We should have done all that we could to negotiate a diplomatic solution.

I was also violently opposed to sending in U.S. ground troops to Kosovo